

Friday, March 20, 2015

The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy (OT) Practice (Board)

**Location: Spring Grove Hospital Center
55 Wade Avenue – Bland Bryant Building, 4th Floor
Conference Room**

Chairperson: Kamala Stevenson, MS, OTR/L

9:00 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS

Kamala Stevenson, MS, OTR/L, Chairperson
Iyna Adams, OTR/L, CPAM, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Kshepakaran, M.Ed., OTR/L, CAPS, FAOTA
Vanessa Hughes, COTA/L
A. Cassandra Brown, Consumer Member
Meenakshi Gupta, Consumer Member

NON BOARD MEMBERS

Donna Ashman, Executive Director
Grant Gerber, Board Counsel
Tony DeFranco, Board Counsel
Marilyn Pinkney, Licensing Coordinator

1. Ms. Stevenson called the General Session Meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

Ms. Stevenson read the following statement: Except in instances when the Board of Occupational Therapy expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation in otherwise authorized by law, no member of the public meeting attending an open session may participate in the session.

2. Ms. Stevenson announced that Mr. Gerber's last day with the Board would be March 20, 2015, and that Mr. Tony DeFranco, OAG, would be assigned to the Board hereafter. Mr. Gerber stated that he would be willing to substitute in the event of Mr. Tony DeFranco's absence.
3. Ms. Brown motioned to amend the General Session Agenda – March 20, 2015. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
4. Ms. Brown motioned to approve the January 16, 2015 General Session Minutes. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
5. Ms. Brown motioned to approve the February 21, 2015 General Session Minutes. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

REPORTS

1. Ms. Stevenson informed the Board that Mr. DeFranco, Board Counsel, and Vanessa Hughes, Board member were conducting a Case Resolution Conference (CRC) in another meeting room. Meanwhile, Mr. Gerber would serve as Board Counsel during the general session of the Board meeting.
2. Ms. Ashman updated the Board that during the 2015 Legislative Session, HB 309 was given an unfavorable report in the House, and SB 244 was withdrawn. However, even though the proposed legislation did not pass, further discussion is needed on the issue of biennial renewal.
3. Biennial Renewal – Mr. Kshepakaran motioned for the Board to work on a draft proposal to change the renewal cycle from annual to biennial. This could include revisions to the general regulations, continuing competency requirements, and the fee schedule. Ms. Hughes seconded the motion. All in favor. The Board will notify the sponsors of HB 309 and SB 244 of the status of project.
4. Ms. Ashman recommended submitting the current regulatory proposal that was approved by the Board in November 2014 rather than hold it until the biennial renewal regulations are developed because there are several unrelated changes that could go into effect sooner rather than later. For example, the current proposal includes a change that will enable applicants to submit license verification documents and moral character forms via electronic means thereby expediting the application process.
5. Mr. Kshepakaran motioned to submit the regulatory proposal approved by the Board in November, i.e., Chapter 10.46.01- General Regulations and Chapter 10.46.06 PAMS, and then follow-up with the biennial renewal regulations when they become available. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Ms. Stevenson, Ms. Adams, Mr. Kshepakaran, Ms. Brown, Ms. Gupta voted in favor, Ms. Hughes, opposed.
6. Mr. Kshepakaran raised concern about the future relationship with MOTA in light of the lack of collaboration and opposition between the Board and the Association during the recent legislative session.

The Board had discussion and several ideas surfaced. Ms. Ashman also shared that the Director from another health occupation board is forming a committee to develop guidelines on this subject. Ms. Ashman volunteered to participate on that committee and would keep the Board apprised.

7. The Board expressed interest in the SB 198/HB 580 Cultural Competency, and requested to be kept up-to-date on this subject.
8. The Board directed Ms. Ashman to arrange a Board Workshop this Spring for the purpose of developing the biennial regulatory proposal and ByLaws for the Board.
9. Ms. Adams reported that the continuing education sponsor submissions are plentiful and reviews have been conducted business as usual. Mr. Kshepakaran reported the continuing education submissions that he has reviewed are business as usual as well.

10. Ms. Ashman submitted several pieces of correspondence for Board review. The Board reviewed:
 - a. Correspondence #1– Ms. Ashman will provide a response to the inquiry.
 - b. Correspondence #2 – Ms. Ashman will provide a response to the inquiry.
 - c. Correspondence #3 – Ms. Ashman will provide a response to the inquiry.
 - d. Correspondence #4 – The Board agreed that both #3 and #4 were similar and could be given the same response.
 - e. Correspondence #5 – The Board directed Ms. Ashman to provide a response to the inquiry.
11. Ms. Stevenson recommended a short break and then resumed with the Board meeting.
12. Ms. Ashman gave an update on the status of office automation relative to the Board office. Ms. Ashman shared a proposal submitted by System Automation which would enable the Board to discontinue it's minority share of the current partnership with the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners. Pros and Cons of both plans were discussed. The Board preferred the System Automation plan and thoughtfully considered the additional expense that the System Automation would require. The Board members requested that Ms. Ashman attempt to continue to negotiate the fees associated with the contract. Ms. Hughes motioned that the Board explore independence with the database system and pursue the proposal from System Automation. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.
13. Ms. Ashman reported that the Board office is going forward with annual renewal for 2015. Ms. Ashman is still working on the 2015 renewal fees which were to be impacted by the decision on office automation. Now that there is direction on that issue, the fee schedule can be determined. Ms. Ashman stated that the fees would be slightly less than they were for the 2014 renewal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The Board reviewed an email from Delegate Reznik on Teletherapy. Ms. Ashman was directed to respond to the Delegate and convey interest in participating in his plan to work on teletherapy regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Adams proposed ratification of 24 occupational therapists and 7 occupational therapy assistants for a grand total of 31 for licenses in Maryland. Ms. Hughes motioned to approve the 31 applications. Mr. Kshepakaran seconded to the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Justin Borbe	Occupational Therapist
Maegan Krifchin	Occupational Therapist
Stephanie Sauer	Occupational Therapist

Olumayowa E Enoma	Occupational Therapist
Rebekah Roberts	Occupational Therapist
Katlin Friesner	Occupational Therapist
Christine Coyle	Occupational Therapist
Holly Corson – Reinstatement	Occupational Therapist
Adrianne Lego	Occupational Therapist
Christopher Turner	Occupational Therapist
Leslie Hinson	Occupational Therapist
Melissa Brandt	Occupational Therapist
Lisa Jurd	Occupational Therapist
Lauren Sessoms	Occupational Therapist
Sarah Jessilonis	Occupational Therapist
Shira Kahn	Occupational Therapist
Leslie Miller – Reinstatement	Occupational Therapist
Samantha Sanderson	Occupational Therapist
Neha Kohli	Occupational Therapist
Julie Wolfinger	Occupational Therapist
Nicole Denise S Fabia	Occupational Therapist
Brooke E Santerre	Occupational Therapist
Heather Shipley	Occupational Therapist
Alison Wheeland	Occupational Therapist
Karen DeLauter	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Cindy Rickards – Reinstatement	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Charquel Johnson	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Thomas Sedgwick	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Claudia Williams – Reinstatement	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Sara Reisinger	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Matthew Walerysiak	Occupational Therapy Assistant

2. Mr. Gerber volunteered to forward a template of board bylaws to Mr. DeFranco. Ms. Brown volunteered to serve on the committee to develop board bylaws.
3. Ms. Ashman informed the Board of an upcoming workshop for expert witness training being presented by Mr. John Bull, the investigator for the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Ms. Hughes is planning to attend the training on May 8, 2015. Ms. Ashman will ask Ms. Goetz, case manager, to attend the meeting as well if an investigator has not been hired for the Board by that time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ms. Ashman reminded the Board of the requirement to complete the Financial Disclosure form. For the convenience of the Board members, Ms. Ashman will resend the web link to the form.

2. Ms. Ashman followed up with the Citizen Advocacy Center and has processed the application for the Board's membership.
3. The Board invited Mr. Gerber to return for a luncheon in honor of his dedication and tenure with the Board.

Pursuant to the Maryland Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(13), Annotated Code of Maryland, Ms. Stevenson adjourned the General Session meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Marilyn Pinkney

Licensing Coordinator